

from the one originally drafted by the Legislative Committee, with the result that a large body of nurses are being refused registration on the plea that their schools are not now up to the standard. This is resulting in arraying hundreds of nurses against the whole movement.

Nurses whose schools are not up to the standard, or that for any reason have not been registered with the Regents, are advised that they may be recognized by passing an examination. This idea is extremely unpopular, as it classes graduates with the experienced nurses. Many would rather not be registered than obtain their R.N. in this way.

Now, does it seem quite fair to make nurses who graduated years ago responsible for the standard of their schools? There was not then the same choice of schools that there is now. Women went in good faith and took what was available at the time.

Many schools will not be ready to register for years, perhaps. Would it not be fairer to allow those nurses who are in good standing to register and have them with us in the movement, rather than against us or in a state of inertia?

With only nine hundred applications for State registration in a year and a half, it seems to me that the ultimate object of registration would be obtained more quickly with the active coöperation of the larger body, while nothing is to be gained by keeping them out. I would like to ask for the opinion of other nurses on this subject through the pages of the JOURNAL.

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DEAR EDITOR: May I take exception to some points in Miss Saffair's letter to the Editor in the October number of the JOURNAL? I am sorry that it should be read by so many nurses who share her dissatisfied feelings and think it "a good thought well expressed."

It is my opinion that nurses who, in discussing the subject of bringing our profession to a higher standard or how higher education will affect the nurse in private practice, first ask the questions: What does the future offer us more than the past? Will it make our lives easier? Will the future nurse not have to work so hard while in training and after? can never prove beneficial to the profession or public.

Would not the sincere desire to raise our standard induce us to ask: How much more and better care shall we be able to give in the future than in the past? Will it make our lives more valuable and serviceable? And how can we help admiring and respecting the future nurse for her more thorough training through harder work and more studies?

Certainly more pay and less work are not what a nurse in private

practice should consider as first profits to be obtained from higher education. In Central New York we are paid twenty dollars per week. If we work forty-five weeks in the year, we have nine hundred dollars, and four hundred dollars will cover the expenses of a modest woman in our standing. Not many other people, such as carpenters, plumbers, etc., have as few living expenses as we. We enjoy food, fuel, and lights daily without paying the bills. Some will say, "We are not busy in more than seven weeks of the year." If not, it is our own fault unless prevented by personal illness. Nurses who lack employment, lack higher education, which shows itself in the want of tact, sympathy, intelligence, through which we win confidence; also in willingness to be helpful and active in the sick-room and in general.

If all nurses would possess these qualities, their services would be more in demand, and physicians and people would not dread the engagement of nurses as they do. Not long ago a physician told me that out of about thirty trained nurses of his acquaintance he would engage only three or four; if not able to get these, he preferred practical nurses. Another physician claims that of all the graduates of one school, who number about twenty-five, only two can be depended upon to give satisfaction wherever sent.

We must have higher education before we ask for more pay and less work. When our schools turn out more capable women we shall be in great demand. People will offer more to get us when we have their confidence. They will keep us in their homes weeks and months after restoration to health to guide them with our knowledge in the proper way of living or to meet sudden illnesses, dreaded emergencies.

Though a nurse in private work has some days of hard work, disturbed night's rest, and occasionally minor annoyances, what woman or man in trade, business, profession, or private life is entirely without them?

Think of our many advantages! There are days and days in which our actual work takes not more than two hours of our time. Make use of every minute of each day, and you will find ample opportunity to study and improve yourself. Wherever we go we find people interested in different things. Now we are nursing on a farm; next in the family of a mill-owner; then in a family intensely interested in foreign missions. We soon find out what people are most interested in, and they are glad to have us converse and ask questions concerning things of interest to them.

And if we take up hospital life, what do we find there? A multitude of suffering humanity. Unless our hearts go out in deepest com-

passion, with hands ready to do all they can, our minds willing to be broadened for more work, better work, let us stay away.

I have found two classes of nurses engaged in hospital work. First, those who are not satisfied with the little work they are sometimes able to do in private nursing, striving constantly to learn more, to do more, to do for more at the same time, considering much time wasted in which they might help those most needy, constantly desiring more responsibility and activities of body and mind. In this class we find many hard-working members, who have done most for our profession and are well worthy of all honor, respect, and admiration.

The other class are those who were unsuccessful in private work after graduation, to whom it seemed an effort to adapt themselves to different conditions and places; who found things not quite as ready and convenient as in the hospital, and who prefer to work mechanically, which they can do in the hospital wards. They may be capable workers, but are without heart and aim, and are just as well adapted to work in mills and department stores.

Sentiments expressed in articles like "The Beauty of a Life of Service," by Alice Lucas, in the October number of our JOURNAL, and "Woman in the Professions," by Elizabeth McCracken, in the *Outlook* of July 23, 1904, can be little appreciated by those who are looking for less work and more pay, but are certainly elevating and encouraging.

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[We think this nurse has the true spirit.—ED.]

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DEAR EDITOR: In the October number of the JOURNAL you have a very good editorial on "The Path of Duty." That those conditions which you describe and deplore exist there is no doubt, but I think we cannot be judged as strongly as that. A brief analysis of the conditions under which the sister and nurse live will convince us of that. The woman who enters a convent is prompted to do it principally by religious motives. Her life and actions are dominated by one thought—namely, that by renouncing the world with all its cares and pleasures and giving her life to others she will be received into the Kingdom of Heaven. A very selfish motive, in my opinion, but if it brings such good results as the sisters' work has brought among us, it can easily be forgiven. But by entering the convent she is also relieved of all pecuniary cares, everything is arranged for her, and that leaves her free to devote her entire life to the cause she has taken up. Should she break down from overwork, the "order" will take good care of her, and when the time comes